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Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw LLP  
Intellectual Property Department  
1909 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006

In re Application of :  
HELMOND, Johannes et al. :  
Application No.: 10/531,240 : DECISION ON  
PCT No.: PCT/GB03/04249 :  
Int. Filing Date: 01 October 2003 : REQUEST  
Priority Date: 14 October 2002 :  
Attorney's Docket No.: 118989-05040145 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.42  
For: SOAP COMPOSITION :

This is a decision on applicants' 14 April 2006, submission of a declaration containing an indication that joint inventor Johannes Helmond is deceased. The declaration has been treated as a request for status under 37 CFR 1.42.

**BACKGROUND**

On 01 October 2003, applicants filed international application PCT/GB03/04249, which claimed a priority date of 14 October 2002. A copy of the international application was transmitted to the Office by the International Bureau on 29 April 2004. The deadline for entry into the national stage in the United States was 14 April 2005.

On 14 April 2005, applicants filed a submission for entry into the national stage in the United States which was accompanied by, *inter alia*, the U.S. Basic National Fee.

On 02 February 2006, the Office mailed Notification of Missing Requirements (Form PCT/DO/EO/905) indicating that an oath or declaration of the inventors and the surcharge for late filing of the search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration.

On 14 March 2006, applicants submitted a declaration of the inventors and the fee for late filing of the search fee, examination fee or oath or declaration.

**DISCUSSION**

Under 35 U.S.C. §117, legal representatives of deceased inventors may make application for patent upon compliance with the requirements and on the same terms and conditions applicable to the inventor. The "legal representative (executor, administrator, etc.) of the deceased inventor may make the necessary oath or declaration, and apply for and obtain the patent." 37 CFR 1.42.

The declaration complies with 37 CFR 1.497(a)-(b) and 37 CFR 1.42. The declaration lists the inventors and their citizenships and the legal representative and the legal representative's citizenship, residence and postal address. See 37 CFR 1.497.

**CONCLUSION**

For the above reasons, the request for status under 37 CFR 1.42 is **GRANTED**.

The application has a date of 14 March 2006 under 35 U.S.C. §371(c)(1), (c)(2) and (c)(4). This application is being forwarded to the National Stage Processing Division of the Office of the PCT Operations for continued processing.

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